

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 /020 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: AP OPERATION IN DELHI

1. FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S WERE USED AT NOON PRESS
BRIEFING, JULY 29.

2. Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S
ACTION AGAINST THE ASSOCIATED PRESS? APPARENTLY THEIR
LINES ARE CUT TO LONDON?

A: THIS WAS YESTERDAY I THINK, YESTERDAY OR THE DAY
BEFORE. WE WERE TRYING TO CHECK ON WHY THE LINES WERE
DOWN, WHETHER IT WAS THROUGH NATURAL OR OTHER CAUSES.
I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS NOW. OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD
NOT APPROVE IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER THE CUTTING OF
COMMUNICATIONS WHICH WOULD NOT ENABLE THE PRESS TO
FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY.

3. Q: IN VIEW OF THE ACTIONS AND THREATS THE GOVERNMENT
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HAS MADE AGAINST OTHER REPORTERS IN INDIA, DO YOU

SERIOUSLY ENTERTAIN THE NOTION THAT THIS MIGHT BE SOME
SORT OF NATURAL CAUSE?

A: I JUST DON'T KNOW. HAVING SERVED TWO YEARS IN
INDIA, I KNOW ON CERTAIN OCCASIONS WHEN RAINS COME IT
REALLY CAN UPSET THINGS. BUT I'M NOT IMPLYING THIS IN
ANY WAY WHATSOEVER. I WAS TRYING TO TAKE AN OBJECTIVE
LOOK AT IT.

4. Q: HAS ANY COMPLAINT BEEN MADE TO THE INDIAN
GOVERNMENT?

A: LET ME CHECK THAT.

Q: THANK YOU.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT FROM
DELHI ON WHAT IN FACT HAPPENED AS WELL AS CURRENT STATUS
OF AP OPERATION. INGERSOLL

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